

Exhibit No. 4Date 1-24-07Bill No. SB 155

Mister Chairman, Members of the Committee

My name is Vernon E. Clinch and I presently reside in Helena. I am more commonly known by my nickname which is "Bud," (not to be confused with Mr. Arthur "Bud" Clinch, a former Department Head with the State of Montana.)

I am a former member of the Governor's Aging Advisory Council and a former member and president of Legacy Legislature (now known as the Silver Haired Legislature.)

In working with those two organizations, we worked very closely with the Senior and Long Term Care Division of the Department of Public Health and Human Services. In that interaction, we worked closely with the Directors of the various Area Agencies on Aging. We found that the population of Montana is aging rapidly. By the year 2025, almost all the counties in Montana will have more than 25% of their population over the age of 65. People are living longer due to advances in medicine but their resources have not kept up with the cost of living.

Over the past ten years, both the Governor's Council and Legacy Legislature have tried to get a Senior Citizen's Trust Fund established, with the hope that new and increased services could be provided to the elderly citizens of the state. We tried a number of approaches; "pop" taxes, resolutions to the Governor, anything that could help the elderly. None of these approaches in the past helped.

The Older Montanans' Trust Fund Bill, SB155 provides the greatest and best hope for a trust fund that will address the needs of the elderly of the state.

I would fervently hope that this committee will vote to approve SB155 and that the entire Legislature will see fit to approve the bill.

Thank you Mister Chairman and the Members of the Committee